

# Christian Stewardship

## Outline - Chapter Seven

### 1. Managing the Property of Another:

Page 2

- A. Stewardship Implies Ownership by Another
- B. The Property God Owns:
  - 1. The Christian's Body Belongs to God
  - 2. The Christian's Spirit Belongs to God

### 2. Christian Stewardship Manifested:

Page 3

- A. The Attributes of Good Stewardship:
  - 1. Stewardship Requires Faithfulness
  - 2. Stewardship Requires Knowledge
  - 3. Stewardship Requires Wisdom
  - 4. Stewardship Requires Effort
- B. Stewardship Requires Proper Management of Time, Talent and Treasure:
  - 1. Time - the Most Precious Commodity
  - 2. Dedication of the Believer's Spiritual and Cultivated Talents
  - 3. Managing Material and Financial Blessings
- C. Cultivating Consistently Christian Priorities:
  - 1. First Priority - the Believer's Relationship with Jesus Christ
  - 2. Second Priority - the Believer's Relationships in the Family
  - 3. Third Priority - the Believer's Relationships in the Local Church
  - 4. Fourth Priority - the Believer's Employer/employee Relationships

### 3. The Steward's Ministry Is Soul-winning:

Page 15

- A. Consider the Privilege of Witnessing:
  - 1. Why Living Is Better than Dying
  - 2. Christians Are Ambassadors of Reconciliation
  - 3. Witnessing Imparts Great Joy
- B. Witnessing Is Blessed with Rewards
- C. Witnessing Is Constrained by Love
- D. Witnessing Demonstrates Wisdom

- E. Recognize the Three Bible Stages of Witnessing:
  - 1. "Planting" the Seed of the Gospel
  - 2. "Watering" the Gospel with the Word of God
  - 3. Trust God to Give the "Increase"

Page 14

- F. Exhibiting Christian Character in Witnessing:
  - 1. Be Constantly Soul - Conscious
  - 2. Be Gracious - Never Be Rude, or Crude
  - 3. Witnessing Is Not Debating
  - 4. Do Not Be Sidetracked When Witnessing

Page 15

- G. Cultivating opportunities to witness:
  - 1. Individual spontaneous witnessing
  - 2. Organized team visitation, two - by -two

- H. Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ:
  - 1. Present the gospel of Jesus Christ
  - 2. Extend an invitation for salvation
  - 3. Giving Bible assurance of salvation

PAGE 16

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

### Introduction:

The most common concept among believers is that *Christian Stewardship* has something to do with money and its relationship to God. In fact, most of the available literature on the subject deals solely with Christian principles of finance.

It is true that Christian Stewardship *includes* the responsible management of money. The Bible says much about money and its impact on the believer, and sadly, most Christians are ignorant of God's word on the matter. However, Christian Stewardship extends far beyond money management; it is the spiritual administration of *time, talents, and treasure*.

Proper stewardship of a Christian's life demands more than an obscure, insignificant role for the things of God; it elevates the Lord Jesus Christ to His rightful preeminence as **Lord!** Submitting to the *Lordship of Jesus Christ* requires an ordering of priorities. Joy and peace are often sacrificed for false values and goals which subvert the will of God. The standard of conduct for a Christian has never been determined upon the basis of whether a matter is *right or wrong*, but whether it glorifies the Saviour.

Christian Stewardship, by its very nature, implies active participation; if the heartbeat of the gospel is *salvation*, then the *occupation* of the steward is *soul-winning!* It is the personal fulfilment of the Great Commission:

*“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”* (Mark 16: 15)

**Stewardship Defined:** *One who manages the property of another* (World Book Dictionary)

### 1. Managing the Property of Another:

#### A. Stewardship Implies **Ownership by Another:**

*“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's”* (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20)

#### B. The **Property God Owns:**

##### 1. The Christian's **Body** Belongs to God:

The Body Is to Be a **Living Sacrifice:**

Because the Christian belongs to Him, God alone determines what constitutes proper stewardship:

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”* (Romans 12: 1-2)

The *Living Sacrifice* Is Accomplished Through **Crucifixion:**

*“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”* (Galatians 2: 20)

The living sacrifice which Paul describes is made by faith. To be *crucified* does not mean *to kill*. Crucifixion means *to be put in a place to die*. For the believer that place of death is the submission of fleshly desires *day-by-day* in obedience to the will of God:

*“I die daily”* (1 Corinthians 15: 31)

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

The Living Sacrifice Is Accomplished Through **Sanctification**:

The word *sanctification* is a Bible word meaning *to be set apart*. It involves first being set apart from sin:

*“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty”* (2 Corinthians 6: 17-18)

Secondly, it means being set apart (the surrender of self) to Christ:

*“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work”* (2 Timothy 2: 21)

*“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ”* (Philippians 3: 7-8)

### 2. The Christian's **Spirit** Belongs to God:

The spirit of man, formerly *“dead in trespasses and sins”* (Ephesians 2: 1), is *quicken*ed (brought to life), at the new-birth, and becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit:

*“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”* (1 Corinthians 3: 16)

## 2. Christian Stewardship Manifested:

### A. The **Attributes** of Good Stewardship:

#### 1. Stewardship Requires **Faithfulness**:

*“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”* (1 Corinthians 4: 2)

Faithful stewardship is not measured as much by a Christian's *ability* as it is by *availability, durability, and dependability!* The Bible urges believers to be *“instant in season, out of season”* (2 Timothy 4: 2)

#### 2. Stewardship Requires **Knowledge**:

Knowledge of **God's Word**:

*“Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?”* (Proverbs 22: 20-21)

Knowledge of **God's Will**:

*“That ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God”* (Colossians 1: 9-10)

#### 3. Stewardship Requires **Wisdom**:

Wisdom Begins with **Reverence for God**:

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding”* (Proverbs 9: 10)

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

Wisdom Is **Essential** to Success:

*“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches”* (Proverbs 24: 3-4)

Wisdom Is Available **Simply by Asking**:

*“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him”* (James 1: 5)

### 4. Stewardship Requires **Effort**:

It Means Controlling the Believer's **Manner of Speech**:

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God”* (1 Peter 4: 11)

A good steward has surrendered his speech to Christ. Conversation, more than just words spoken, is a mirror which reflects the spiritual condition of the heart:

*“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh”* (Luke 6: 45)

Christians are commanded to abstain from vulgarity and profanity (James 3: 9-10). The believer's speech is to be exemplified by God's grace (Colossians 4: 6), and in a manner which honors the Saviour.

The Believer's **Conduct of Life**:

*“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God”* (1 Peter 4: 10)

*“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”*  
(1 Corinthians 10: 31)

*“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ”* (Colossians 3: 23-24)

### B. Stewardship Requires Proper **Management** of **Time, Talent** and **Treasure**:

#### 1. Time Is a **Precious Commodity**:

*“LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am”* (Psalms 39: 4)

*“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil”* (Ephesians 5: 15-16)

Appropriating Time **Wisely**:

*“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”*  
(Ecclesiastes 3: 1)

To many, weekly church attendance is the sole appropriation to *God's time*. However, proper stewardship requires that all time, no matter how it is spent, be invested to the glory of God. Time is valuable; once spent, it cannot be recovered. *Inordinate* time spent on one priority is usually robbed from another (*and more important*) cause. Spiritual priorities such as prayer, Bible-study, and witnessing are often neglected due to a misguided emphasis upon relaxation or recreation. It has been said that *the enemy of the best is often not the worst, but the good!* No one questions the

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

need for recreation; it is good in its proper place. But all priorities should *compliment*, rather than detract from the others, according to the truthful importance of each.

### 2. Faithful Stewardship Involves the **Talents** of Believers:

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will”*  
(1 Corinthians 12: 7, 11)

Both the *spiritual* talents (abilities imparted by the Holy Spirit), and the *cultivated* talents (abilities developed by instruction and learning) of Christians are to be dedicated to the praise of God.

While God does call certain believers to specific tasks (1 Corinthians 12: 18, 27), He has called *every* Christian to be a witness, and He never demands more of a man than He enables him to give:

*“For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not”* (2 Corinthians 8: 12)

### 3. Stewardship Demands Proper **Management** of **Treasure** (Finances):

What **Portion** Belongs to God? :

*“Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine”* (Proverbs 3: 9-10)

The obedient Christian has given God *everything* and held back *nothing*. This includes not only the tithe and love-offerings, but the dedication of all material wealth as well. It means that believers spend money in a manner which honors the Lord Jesus Christ.

What about Christian **Tithing**?:

*“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it”* (Malachi 3: 10)

Tithe means *first-tenth*. The tithe was instituted in the Old Testament; later, Israel was required under the law to tithe. Anyone who refused was a *spiritual robber* (Malachi 3: 8).

New Testament Christians are free from the law (Romans 10: 4). But, if Israel was *bound* to give a tenth, how much more willing should Christians be, who enjoy freedom in Christ (John 8: 36), to give *at least* that much? The New Testament directs believers when, where, and with what attitude we are to give:

*“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come”* (1 Corinthians 16: 2)

*“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9: 7)

To those who think they cannot afford to tithe, the opposite is true! God has promised to abundantly bless what remains *after giving* to the cause of Christ:

*“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work”* (2 Corinthians 9: 8)

Christians are invited to *prove* God's promise of blessings in giving (Malachi 3: 10). However, giving only for the sake of a blessing would be *sinful*! The tithe and love-offerings are to be given for the purpose of *worship* and *thanksgiving* from a heart of love for the Saviour.

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

### C. Cultivating **Consistently Christian Priorities:**

#### 1. **First Priority:** the Believer's **Relationship with Jesus Christ:**

The Relationship must Be **Personal and Spiritual:**

*“Ye must be born again”* (John 3: 8)

It has been said that God has many *children*, but *no grandchildren*. The fact that parents and other family members are saved does not assure anyone else's salvation! The only assurance of salvation is *by personally and individually* repenting of sins (Luke 13: 3), and receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord:

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”* (Romans 10: 9-10)

*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Romans 10: 13)

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”* (John 1: 12)

This personal and spiritual relationship with Christ is a sure promise from God, overcoming doubt and imparting confidence about the believer's eternal destiny:

*“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”* (1 John 5: 11-13)

Submitting to the **Lordship of Christ** Requires Some **Self-denial:**

*“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it”* (Matthew 16: 24-25)

*“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith”* (Romans 12: 3)

Ignore the **Philosophies of Men:**

*“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power”* (Colossians 2: 8-10)

Avoid the **Perils of Materialism:**

*“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (1 Timothy 6: 9-10)

*“And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth”* (Luke 12: 15)

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

Obey the **Spirit of God**:

*“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father”* (Romans 8: 14-15)

*“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost”*  
(1 Corinthians 12: 3)

Jesus Christ reigns as Lord when Christians surrender their *will* totally and completely to Him. How sweetly the words of the old hymn demonstrate that truth:

*Take my will, and make it thine, It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is thy own, it shall be thy royal throne . . .*  
(“Take My Life and Let It Be” by Frances Ridley Havergal)

### 2. **Second Priority**: the Believer's **Relationships in the Family**:

The Family Was Begun in the Garden of Eden and Is God's First Earthly Institution:

*“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”* (Genesis 2: 24)

The **Basis of Success**: Every Family Member Should Be Saved:

Many of the problems and failures in the home are the result of strife between saved and unsaved family members. The most important priority of family life should be to prayerfully win every individual to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ!

#### a. The **Husband-wife** Relationship:

Marriage to an Unbeliever Is **Forbidden**:

*“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”* (2 Corinthians 6: 14)

The **Spiritual Implications** of Dating:

Christian young people should not date non-Christians. Further, boy-girl relationships of the same denominational faith are most wise. Dating partners should be chosen prayerfully, with the conviction not to date someone who would not be an acceptable marriage candidate.

Marriage Disappointment and the **"Spouse Covenant"**:

Christians who marry unbelievers with the idea that their basic differences can be *straightened out*, discover too often, too late, what a mistake such a philosophy is! But far from being a hopeless mess with no solution, the scriptures reveal a covenant promise whereby the unsaved may be won to Christ:

*“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear”* (1 Peter 3: 1-2)

The **Sacred Nature** of the Husband-wife Union:

*“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh”* (Ephesians 5: 31)

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

One of the most destructive beliefs of a permissive society is that marriage is merely an agreement between *two-equal-but-separate* partners. God's word declares that marriage unites them as "*one flesh!*"

*"Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency"* (1 Corinthians 7: 3-4)

Both husband and wife share *equal responsibility* to their union (not 50/50%, but 100/100%!), but each fulfills a *specific function* in God's order.

The Wife Is to Be **Submissive** to Her Husband:

*"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing"* (Ephesians 5: 22-24)

The wife is to *submit* (yield) herself completely to her husband. Such submission is both *physical*, and *spiritual*. She is to be in *subjection* to (controlled by) him *in every thing*. Her will is to be controlled by his leadership in all things.

The Wife Is to **Reverence** Her Husband:

*"Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband"* (Ephesians 5: 33)

The wife is charged to *reverence* (honor, respect) her husband. The Christian who is married to an unbeliever is responsible, by prayer and through Godliness, to win his respect and lead him to Christ. Her motive for yielding to her husband is that she does it "*as unto the Lord.*" (Ephesians 5: 22)

The Husband Is **Commanded** to **Love** His Wife:

*"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself"* (Ephesians 5: 25-28)

The Husband Is to **Nourish** His Wife:

*"For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church"* (Ephesians 5: 29)

In this scripture, *nourishment* has a twofold meaning: first, the husband is to provide the physical and material requirements for the home; second, he is to be the spiritual breadwinner! The husband is responsible for the spiritual nourishment of his wife and family. How often this role is reversed! The husband is the *head* of the wife. He is not the *boss* ("*do as I say!*"); but rather the *leader* ("*follow me as I follow Christ!*").

The Husband Is to **Cherish** His Wife:

The bible word *cherish* (Ephesians 5: 29), describes the attention to be given a subject of *great value*; it is to be jealously protected and appreciated. God did not *suggest* that the husband adopt such regard, He *demand*s it!



## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

### b. The **Parent-child** Relationship:

Children Are to **Obe**y Their Parents:

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right”* (Ephesians 6: 1)

*“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord”*  
(Colossians 3: 20)

Children Are to **Honour** Their Parents:

*“Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth”* (Ephesians 6: 2-3)

*Honour* means that children are to be submissive to parents out of a heart of unfeigned love and respect, with reverence for their responsibility to God. Of the *Ten Commandments*, this is the first given with a *promised blessing* (Deuteronomy 5: 16). *Prolonged days* conveys a dual message: first, it is a promise of *lengthened natural days*; second, it is the promise of a *fulfilling life each day!*

Exploding the **“What-if Doctrine!”** :

Some teens ask, *“What if my parents are unsaved and forbid me to attend church services or Christian activities?”* Most parents, saved or lost, will seldom prohibit participation in activities they know to be wholesome and pure. Such questions often mask a spirit of rebellion which needs to be surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Young people whose testimony reflects a sweet spirit, void of *deceit* and *contempt*, generally discover that supposed *what-ifs* simply do not exist.

The Responsibilities of **Parents** Begin with **Fathers**:

*“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath”* (Ephesians 6: 4)

*“Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged”* (Colossians 3: 21)

Fathers, primarily, are responsible to God for the *development* and *growth* of the children. To *“provoke not to wrath, or anger,”* means that fathers are not to *teach* or *induce*, by the example of their own lives, character-traits which may lead children into sin.

Raising Children **Scripturally**:

*“Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6: 4)

Parents are to establish clear boundaries of acceptable behavior. Children must have definite rules of family, moral, and spiritual conduct. Such boundaries express parental love, concern, and protection, which children need in order to feel secure. Boundaries define what is required for the child to maintain parental respect and trust.

Parents Are to Practice **Biblical Correction** for Disobedience:

*“Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die”*  
(Proverbs 23: 13)

Application of the *rod* (literally, *a switch*), is never for the purpose of inflicting injury or child-abuse, but for *correction!* The aim of correction is to cause the child to recognize and forsake sin.

The **Motive** for Correction Is **Love**:

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

*“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes”*  
(Proverbs 13: 24)

The **Goal** of Correction Is to **Break the Spirit of Sin:**

*“Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying”* (Proverbs 19: 18)

The **Result** of Biblical Correction Is **Biblical Righteousness:**

*“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him”*  
(Proverbs 22: 15)

### c. **Biblical** Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage:

Of church doctrine concerning the Christian home, no interpretation of the scriptures has been more controversial than the *traditional* view of marriage, divorce, and remarriage. Many of the prevalent beliefs among “*fundamentalists*” contradict clear *Bible truth* on the subject.

The harsh reaction of Christians to the disintegration of the traditional family is understandable; that nearly half of marriages end in divorce reflects the failure of declining moral values and religious convictions, and threatens the very fabric of society! Divorce is *always* due to *sin*; and though indignant at its *cause*, the believer's attitude toward divorce should be a reflection of *God's laws* and not his own opinions. As always, the *only true guide* for Christian doctrine is the *Bible alone*. **Church doctrine which contradicts Bible doctrine is false doctrine:**

*“Let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged”* (Romans 3: 4)

Biblical Marriage Is a **Lifelong Covenant:**

*“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh”* (Genesis 2: 24)

The marriage covenant is the first earthly institution of divine origin. It is not an agreement between man, woman and the state, or even man, woman and the church; it is a *covenant* between a man and a woman *in the presence of God*. Laws and licenses do not *permit* marriage, but only *recognize* it for the benefit of an orderly society. The church does not *authorize* marriage, it only provides an appropriate *spiritual environment* for its observance.

The concept of a *trial* marriage, which can be casually broken at the whim of husband or wife, is *foreign* to the scriptures. The Bible describes the commitment as to *cleave* (*to adhere, or to be joined together*), as “*one flesh*.”

The Proliferation of **Unscriptural** Divorce:

*“The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”* (Matthew 19: 3-6)

Christ sternly rebuked the notion that one might divorce for *every cause* (for any reason, as is the case in so-called *no-fault* divorce.)

The Biblical **Mosaic Exception** for Divorce:

*“They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put*

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

*away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so” (Matthew 19: 7-8)*

That divorce is even a Biblical consideration is due to the *hardness of man's heart*. From the beginning, God's design was for husband and wife to lovingly and faithfully fulfill the marriage covenant, loving, caring, and forgiving one another. However, the impact of sexual infidelity upon the marriage is so devastating that the human heart is often unable to recover its trust in the covenant. This forms the scriptural provision for divorce.

Commonly Accepted **Errors** Concerning Divorce:

The general concepts of divorce held by many *traditional fundamentalists* are basically the doctrines of Roman Catholicism, and begin with the position that marriage is *eternal*. The belief that marriage is “*one man, one woman, forever,*” or that the covenant cannot be dissolved at all (“*still married in God's eyes*”), violates the teachings of the scriptures on the *earthly nature* of marriage:

*“Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother: Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her. Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven” (Matthew 22: 25-30)*

That Divorce Is an **Unpardonable Sin**:

*“Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come” (Matthew 12: 31-32)*

The (*one and only*) unpardonable sin is *blasphemy against the Holy Spirit* (speaking against, or attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to the devil. Read Matthew 12: 24-28). Divorce is *not* the unpardonable sin. The Bible recognizes and regulates divorce, therefore, it is not unpardonable.

That God **Forbids** All Divorce:

That the Bible makes provision for divorce, establishes it as Bible doctrine. The precept is derived from God's own relationship to Israel:

*“And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce” (Jeremiah 3: 8)*

*“Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away” (Isaiah 50: 1)*

If God declares Himself to be divorced from Israel, how can it be argued that He forbids all divorce?

That **Re-divorce** and **Re-marriage** Is God's Solution to Divorce:

It is believed by some that the only way to “*correct*” a divorce is for the former husband and wife to divorce their present spouses and remarry. Even discounting the trauma and tragedy that would engulf two additional families, such a remedy is *absolutely forbidden* by the scriptures:

*“When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed*

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

*out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife; Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that is abomination before the LORD” (Deuteronomy 24: 1-4)*

Divorce **Is** a Bible Doctrine:

Divorce is *never* God's perfect will for the marriage relationship. It is, however, a *Biblical provision* where sexual infidelity (Matthew 19: 3-8), has broken the marriage covenant. A scriptural *dissolution* of the marriage covenant occurs in any of the following three circumstances:

Marriage Is Dissolved by **Death**:

*“For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man” (Romans 7: 2-3)*

*“The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7: 39)*

Marriage Is Dissolved by the **Desertion of an Unbeliever**:

*“And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife. But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace” (1 Corinthians 7: 10-13, 15)*

Marriage Is Dissolved by **Divorce Due to Fornication**:

*“But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery” (Matthew 5: 32)*

*“And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery” (Matthew 19: 9)*

Roman Catholicism has long defined fornication as *“sexual intercourse between the unmarried,”* while adultery is identified as *“sexual intercourse between married persons other than their spouse.”* This has come to be the accepted view of society as well. It is *not*, however, the *Biblical definition*. Scripturally, fornication is *all sexual sin, including adultery, incest, and homosexuality* (read 1 Corinthians 5: 1; 6: 18; and Jude 7). Adultery is a form of fornication which is *“unfaithfulness to the marriage covenant,”* and under the law was punishable by death, and not by divorce (Leviticus 20: 10).

The **Results** of Biblical Divorce:

When the marriage covenant is ended according to scriptural provisions, a Christian is no longer bound to the marriage (1 Corinthians 7: 15), and is regarded by the Bible as *unmarried* (1 Corinthians 7: 11, Deuteronomy 24: 4). Must such a person remain unmarried, or is it permissible to marry again? The Bible declares it best to remain unmarried (1 Corinthians 7: 11),

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

or to be reconciled to the former spouse (if they have not since remarried - Deuteronomy 24: 4). However, to marry again is allowed:

*“Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you”* (1 Corinthians 7: 27-28)

### 3. **Third Priority:** the Believer's **Relationships in the Local Church:**

#### a. **Every** Christian Should **Belong** to a Local Church:

*“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together”* (Hebrews 10: 24-25)

It Should Be a **Bible-believing** Church:

No local church is worthy of support which does not *believe* the Bible, *preach* and *teach* the Bible, and *practice* Bible living without apology or reservation.

It Should Be a **Christ-honoring** Church:

Jesus Christ loves the church and died for it; He is its Head (Ephesians 5: 23). He works through the church, He protects the church and He's coming again for the church. No local church is a *true* New Testament church which demeans or denies the deity and preeminence of Christ.

It Should Be a **Missions-oriented** Church:

God has entrusted to the local church alone the commission to preach the gospel to *every creature*. The church is the only agency from which the gospel is sent to the four corners of the earth; any church which does not actively support missions has failed its purpose.

It Should Be a **Soul-winning** Church:

The ministry of the local church is to *point sinners to Christ* (Mark 16: 15). Its mission is not to reform society, or to feed and clothe the poor, although these are high and noble goals. Many churches have forsaken the gospel in favor of "*social action*" and no Christian should belong to such a church.

#### b. **Every** Christian Should **Support** the Local Church:

Believers should pray for the church: nothing great or mighty has ever been accomplished in the church without prayer. Repentance, revival, and Holy Ghost power all come to the church through prayer:

*“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God”* (Philippians 4: 6)

*“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much”* (James 5: 16)

Believers Should **Serve Christ** in the Church:

Merely *showing up* for meetings does not constitute some notable service to God! Church attendance is for *worship* and *fellowship*; telling a lost world about the Saviour is service!

Believers Should **Finance the Ministries** of the Church by Free-will Tithes and Love-offerings:

*“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9:7)

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

Tithes and Love-offerings Are Given **Through the Church**:

*“Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him”* (1 Corinthians 16: 2)

**Begging** Money from Unbelievers **Is Wrong!** :

God has only *one method* for supporting His church; the free-will tithes and love offerings of His own people. No unbeliever should ever be asked, or feel compelled to donate what Christians should be giving joyfully. That conviction should call into question the practice of car washes, bingo games, bake-sales, and bazaars. Such activities should be reserved for the church family.

c. How Christians Should **Choose** the **Right** Local Church:

Note the ministries of the church; do not select a church based solely upon its programs or facilities. Many churches are involved in building a name for the pastor, or creating an image of *greatness*. Choose a local church on the merit of what it is doing to *fulfill its ministry* to the Lord. Does it *exalt Christ*? Does it *stand on the scriptures* without apology? Does it *support missions*? Does it promote *soul-winning*?

Prayerfully Seek the **Leadership of the Holy Spirit**:

Church membership is a very important factor in the harmony and peace of family life. Selecting a church is not a matter to be considered lightly. Believers should join a local church only after much prayer:

*“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him”* (James 1: 5)

The **Role** of the Church in Promoting **Proper Priorities**:

The right church will harmonize the believer's relationships to Christ and the family. Church activities and duties which do not leave sufficient time for a balanced home life are wrong. Every ministry of the local church should *nurture family values*, and provide spiritual opportunities to worship and serve Jesus Christ.

4. **Fourth Priority**: the Believer's **Employer/employee Relationships**:

a. Responsibilities of the **Employee** ("*Servant*") to the **Employer** ("*Master*"):

*“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men”* (Colossians 3: 23)

*“With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men”* (Ephesians 6: 7)

The Scriptures Teach Employee **Loyalty** and **Sincerity**:

*“Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart”* (Ephesians 6: 5-6)

God Promises to **Reward** Employee **Faithfulness**:

*“Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free”* (Ephesians 6: 8)

Employee **Slothfulness** God Will **Judge**:

*“But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons”* (Colossians 3: 25)

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

### b. Responsibilities of the **Employer** ("Master") to the **Employee** ("Servant"):

Employers Are to Provide **Fair** and **Just Payment** for Services Rendered:

*"Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven"* (Colossians 4: 1)

The need for labor unions and work laws would vanish if all employers were saved and submissive to God's word! Unfair wages are as surely theft as is employee pilfering of company property. It is the spiritual responsibility of employers to adequately provide for employees.

Employers Are Prohibited from **Driving** Employees under **Duress** or **Threats**:

*"And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him"* (Ephesians 6: 9)

The Biblical ideal is for labor and management to work together as brethren; accomplishing tasks in a manner which promotes mutual trust and respect, and which glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ.

Employers are to assign all jobs equitably among employees; the admonition to *"give unto your servants that which is just and equal"* (Colossians 4: 1), implies fairness in job assignments and promotions.

Employers Are Expected to Be **Submissive** to the **Lordship of Christ**:

In view of the fact that all believers will give an account of stewardship at the Judgement Seat of Christ, employers are reminded to use their powers and resources as instruments of righteousness toward employees.

### 3. The Steward's Ministry Is Soul-winning:

Man's greatest need is not food, clothing or shelter, although almost everyone would agree that these comprise the most basic requirements of life. In fact, to supply these needs man spends the greater part of his life, often neglecting the most important thing, which is securing the eternal destiny of his own soul:

*"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Matthew 16: 26)

Christ's redemptive work was completed at Calvary; the plan of salvation is finished, and God's word reveals the divine means by which the glorious gospel is to be proclaimed to a lost and dying world:

*"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16: 15)

*"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things"* (Luke 24: 46-48)

With these words God charges believers (*all believers!*), to tell the world the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a study of that charge; an instructional guide for becoming an effective witness to His gospel.

#### A. Consider the **Privilege of Witnessing**:

John Newton's *"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me,"* is a testimony that only a redeemed man could sing! That God would reserve to lowly man the glorious honor of telling the gospel story is the highest and holiest privilege!

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

### 1. Why **Living** Is Better than **Dying**:

Had the Lord been finished with believers at salvation, all Christians would be better off in heaven than on earth. But salvation is just the beginning of a new life of service for believers.

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2: 10)

### 2. Christians Are **Ambassadors** of **Reconciliation**:

*“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God”* (2 Corinthians 5: 18-20)

### 3. Witnessing Imparts **Great Joy**:

*“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him”* (Psalms 126: 6)

*“And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together”* (John 4: 36)

*“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth”* (Luke 15: 10)

### B. Witnessing Is **Blessed** with **Rewards**:

*“Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour”* (1 Corinthians 3: 8)

The Salvation of **Lost Souls**:

*“Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”* (James 5: 20)

The Soul-winner's **Crown**:

*“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy”* (1 Thessalonians 2: 19-20)

### C. Witnessing Is **Constrained** by **Love**:

*“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again”* (2 Corinthians 5: 14-15)

### D. Witnessing Demonstrates **Wisdom**:

*“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise”* (Proverbs 11: 30)

### E. Recognize the **Three Bible Stages** of Witnessing:

*“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase”* (1 Corinthians 3: 6-7)

#### 1. **"Planting"** the Seed of the Gospel:



## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

Be **Spirit-led** in Witnessing:

Being *Spirit-led* does not mean to wait for some mystical signal from the Holy Spirit about witnessing to a certain individual at a specific time; it means to *obey God*, giving out the gospel to every creature!

Develop a **Consistent Life-style** of Witnessing:

Believers are to cultivate a day-to-day pattern of patiently "sowing" the "seed" of the gospel; at work, around the neighborhood, everywhere permissible.

Use Biblical **Gospel Tracts**: God's "Tools" for Witnessing:

Gospel tracts are inexpensive; it costs only about a penny to share the printed plan of salvation with others. Only use tracts which clearly, simply present the gospel of Christ. Carry them at all times. People *will read* gospel tracts; and if presented with a kind, sweet spirit, no one will be angry or upset. Remember, *never be rude* and *never be crude!*

### 2. "Watering" the Gospel with the **Word of God**:

The **Bible** Is the "**Water**":

*"That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word"* (Ephesians 5: 26)

God's Word Produces **Faith**:

*"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Romans 10: 17)

The Word of God **Cleanses**:

*"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you"* (John 15: 3)

### 3. **Trust God** to Give the "**Increase**":

Only God Can **Convict** a Sinner:

*"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day"* (John 6: 44)

God **Will Honor** the Gospel:

*"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it"* (Isaiah 55: 11)

*"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me"* (John 12: 32)

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek"* (Romans 1: 16)

F. Exhibit **Christian Character** in Witnessing:

#### 1. Be Constantly "**Soul-conscious**":

*"I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul"* (Psalms 142: 4)

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish"* (Proverbs 29: 18)

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

### 2. Be Gracious; **Never Be Rude or Crude:**

*"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Colossians 4: 6)*

### 3. Witnessing Is Not "**Debating**":

*"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Timothy 2: 24-25)*

Never argue! Strife or contention just to *prove a point* may permanently ruin the opportunity for others to witness to an individual.

### 4. Do Not Be "**Sidetracked**" When Witnessing:

Questions which have no bearing on the presentation of the gospel ("*Where did Cain's wife come from?; What about the heathen in Africa?*", etc.), should be deferred until the plan of salvation is given with an invitation to accept Christ. When sinners are converted, such questions are often forgotten. If the gospel is rejected, these questions may then be considered, with a final appeal for salvation.

### 5. God **Will** Bless a **Spirit-filled** Christian:

*"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain" (John 15: 16)*

Have All Known Sin **Confessed** and **Forgiven:**

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1: 9)*

Present a **Fully-surrendered Life** to Christ:

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12: 1-2)*

The Importance of a **Consistent Testimony:**

*"Be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4: 2)*

### G. Cultivating **Opportunities** to Witness:

#### 1. Individual **Spontaneous** Witnessing:

Most Christians are not *wordsmiths*, finding it awkward to shift from easy conversation about current events or the weather, to the topic of the destiny of the soul. By using a gospel tract, however, the opportunity to witness may be gained in *about 17 seconds!*

**Question:** *"May I give you something good to read?" (Pause) "It tells how to go to Heaven!"*

**Question:** *"Are you going to Heaven?" (If the answer is "no," or "I don't know") . . . "Really?"*

**Question:** *"Would you permit me to show you how to go to Heaven?"*

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

Presenting the Gospel **by Permission**:

*Three minutes* should be sufficient time to share the Bible plan of salvation. Always include an invitation to receive Christ; but remember, busy people may not have time to speak at length, or the situation may be awkward. If time does not permit a witness, ask them to read the gospel tract when possible. Remember, *never be rude or crude*.

### 2. Witnessing in **Organized, Team Visitation**:

Visit "**Two-by-Two**," the Bible Way:

*"And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two"* (Mark 6: 7)

To prevent confusion, only one visitation partner should witness; this privilege may be shared from visit to visit. The other partner should maintain an attitude of prayer, and support the visit by caring for children, pets, and by working to prevent distractions.

Establish the **Nature** of the Visit *Immediately* and *Control* the Conversation:

Immediately identify visiting members by name and church; this will help to avoid embarrassment or compromise because of careless speech or behavior. Guide the conversation (do not "hog" it!), into an opportunity to present the gospel. Avoid complicated religious terms. In simplicity of speech (1 Corinthians 2: 4), consider the two main questions of the gospel: first, *"Do you know that your sins are forgiven?"*; and second, *"Are you going to Heaven?"*. Remember, do not be sidetracked; and *never be rude or crude*.

### H. **Sharing** the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

#### 1. Present the **Bible Plan** of Salvation:

**All** Have Sinned:

*"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags"* (Isaiah 64: 6)

*"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3: 10, 23)

When discussing sin, it is very important not to appear superior to, or demeaning to a lost person; remember that Christians are just sinners saved by grace! Always *begin with self* when admitting the sin nature of man!

The **Wages** of Sin Is **Death**:

*"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Romans 6: 23)

Explain that **death** nowhere in the scriptures means *ceasing to exist*; *death* means *to be separated*. In the Bible text above, eternal death is described as separation from God forever, in the Lake of Fire.

God **Loves** the Sinner:

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3: 16)

Christ **Died** for Man's Sins:

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

*“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5: 8)

*“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”* (2 Corinthians 5: 21)

*“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit”* (1 Peter 2: 24; 3: 18)

**Believe** on Jesus Christ:

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”* (Romans 10: 9-10, 13)

**Receive** Christ by **Faith**:

*“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”* (John 1: 12)

**Confess** Jesus Christ as Lord:

*“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven”* (Matthew 10: 32-33)

### 2. Extend an **Invitation** for Salvation:

**Clarify** Any Questions or Misunderstandings:

It is essential to present the plan of salvation in the simplicity with which God gave it. *Childlike* faith is sufficient to understand the gospel (Mark 10: 13-15); therefore, present it plainly.

*“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple”* (Psalms 19: 7)

How to Pray a Simple **"Sinner's Prayer"**:

*“And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner”* (Luke 18: 13)

Unsaved persons are often unsure or embarrassed about praying in the presence of Christians, especially when it involves confessing sin. It is altogether proper (*and sometimes advisable*), to quietly and reverently offer to lead them in a simple prayer of repentance and faith, such as:

*Lord, I know that I am a sinner, and I now turn from my sins; I believe that Jesus loved me, and died for me; I ask you now to forgive me, and come into my heart; I now receive Christ as my Saviour and Lord, and will live for Him. Thank you Lord, for saving me.*

### 3. Giving **Bible Assurance** of Salvation:

*Never* arbitrarily tell anyone that they are saved! Saving faith must be based upon the truth of God's word; never upon the say-so of a Christian worker! The confidence of the scriptures will abide as a testimony of salvation long after the pronouncements of man, however sincere, have been forgotten.

## Chapter Seven: Christian Stewardship

How to Give **Bible Assurance** of Salvation:

Be certain that the simple plan of salvation, and the prayer of faith was completely understood. Then give Bible assurance of salvation by asking some scriptural questions:

"Where was Christ when you called on Him?":

*"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock"* (Revelation 3: 20)

"Did you receive Christ as your Saviour?":

*"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"* (John 1: 12)

"Where is Christ now?":

*"If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him"* (Revelation 3: 20)

"How do you know that you are saved now?":

*"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10: 13)

*"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God"*  
(1 John 5: 13)

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life"*  
(John 5: 24)

"Would God lie about saving you?":

*"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us"* (Hebrews 6: 18)

### 4. Invite New Converts to **Attend Church** Services:

Circumstances often make a follow-up to individual, spontaneous witnessing impractical or impossible. However, persons converted during organized team visitation should be encouraged to cultivate their new Christian life; one of the first steps is regular church attendance.

### 5. Encourage New Christians in Daily **Prayer** and **Bible Study**:

*"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"*  
(1 Peter 2: 2)

*"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive"* (Matthew 21: 22)

### 6. Be an **Example of Faithfulness** Before New Believers:

*"Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"* (1 Timothy 4: 12)